Recommendation of the NCF

812. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended any roadmap/ programme for rejuvenation of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Commission has recommended for reduction of interest on loans to farmers and fixing of institutional credit at below 4 per cent interest;

(d) if so, the details thereof and which of the recommendations have been accepted and implemented;

(e) whether Government has prepared any plan of action;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) Based on the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers, the Government has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007. Various recommendations made by the Commission for rejuvenation of agriculture and allied sectors, as accepted by the Government have been incorported in the National Policy for Farmers. These include, *inter alia*, assest reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bioresources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural biosecurity system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop sepecific implements and machinery support services for women like creches, child care centres, nutrition; health training timely adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmers-friendly insurances instruments, use of information amd Communications Technology and setting up of farms schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme, effective implementation of MSP across the country and establishing community foodgrains; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like oranic farming and contract farming; rural non-farms employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc. Farmers are now receving short terms credit upto Rs. 3 lakh at a reduced interest rate of 7 per cent per annum.

Many of the provisions contained in the National Policy for Farmers 2007 are already under implementation by various Central Ministries and Department and the State through several on-going schemes and programmes. Recently Government launched two new schemes *i.e.* National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. These two schemes are expected to go a long way in operationlizing the provisions of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 through State specific de-centralized strategy taking into account the agro-climatic and other local conditions for development of agriculture and allied sectors.